

REMARKS

In paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action Applicant's prior election without traverse of the invention as Group I and the species of Figs. 5-14, indicating claims 1-3, 5-10 and 21-23 as readable thereon is acknowledged.

In paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Office Action claims 6-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. With regard to claim 6, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include an antecedent basis for "said etch stop layer" recited in claim 6. Regarding independent claim 7, Applicant has amended claim 7 to indicate that the write gap layer is disposed above the induction coil, as suggested in the Office Action. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that these grounds of rejection have been satisfied.

In paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action claims 1-3, 5-8 and 21-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Santini (6,130,809), stating:

"Note especially figures 1-4, 18, 19, 29 and 32. Santini shows a thin film magnetic head (250) used in a disk drive (see figures 1-3), the head is mounted on a substrate (the slider 42) and has a first pole (254) with a pole pedestal (262), an etch stop layer (266), a coil (252), electrical insulation layer (268) between coil layers where the coil insulating layer does not extend to the ABS surface, a fill/write gap layer (276) and not numbered thin top layer) located above the coil insulating layer which has portions that extend to the ABS surface to provide the write gap, and a second pole (not shown in figure 19, but shown in the two layer coil embodiment of figure 18 as P2/S1). The insulating layers are disclosed as utilizing either alumina or silicon dioxide (see column 12 lines 32-35)."

Additionally, in paragraph 7 of the Office Action it is stated that:

"Claims 9 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

Initially, with regard to independent claim 7, Applicant has amended claim 7 to cure the indefiniteness rejection (see response to paragraphs 3 and 4 above), and Applicant has added the limitations of claim 9, including those of claim 8 from which claim 9 formerly depended into claim 7. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that amended independent claim 7 has been placed in condition for allowance. Regarding dependent claim 10, it has been amended to depend from independent claim 7, and Applicant submits that it is likewise allowable.

Regarding independent claim 1, Applicant has amended claim 1 to include an etch stop layer limitation (to cure the indefiniteness rejection of claim 6, as described in paragraphs 3 and 4 above) and Applicant has added limitations from claims 2 and 5 into claim 1; specifically, that the electrical insulation layer is comprised of hard baked resist or SiO₂, and that the fill layer is comprised of Al₂O₃. Applicant ascertains from the Office Action that these limitations form the basis of the allowability of claim 9, and based thereon, Applicant submits that amended independent claim 1 is likewise allowable. Applicant further submits that dependent claim 6 is also allowable in that it depends from allowable base claim 1.

Regarding independent claim 21, Applicant has amended it in a similar fashion to the amendments to independent claim 1, and Applicant submits that independent claim 21 has also been placed in condition for allowance. Regarding dependent claim 23, Applicant submits that it is allowable in that it depends from allowable base claim 21.


In paragraph 8 of the Office Action prior art is made of record, and though not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure. Applicant has reviewed this prior art and believes that its teachings are cumulative to the teachings of the applied prior art.

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



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